

REMARKS

Applicant submits that the present application is substantially the same as the parent application. Some changes have been made to submit new claims. Applicant submits that the application contains no new matter.

In accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 135(b)(2), the claims of the present application are substantially copied from claims of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/072,202, filed February 7, 2002, which were published on September 12, 2002, in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US2002/0127387A1 ("387 publication").

It should be noted that the "phase separation" limitation of the claims pending in the present application has substantially the same meaning as the "phase inversion" limitation of the claims in the '387 publication. This is demonstrated by the following literature.

In Kimmerle, et. al., "Analysis of the Structure-Determining Process of Phase Inversion Membranes," Desalination 79: 283-302 (1990), it is stated:

Phase inversion membranes are widely used today in microfiltration, ultrafiltration, reverse osmosis and as supports for composite structures. Their properties are mainly determined by the structure generated during the actual membrane formation process, which is usually a diffusion-induced phase separation (DIPS) process.

(emphasis added). Id. at page 283 (attached hereto as Appendix A).

Strathmann, et. al., "The Formation Mechanism of Phase Inversion Membranes," Desalination 21: 241-55 (1977), in discussing the formation of phase inversion membranes, states:

Today, membrane formation is recognized as a phase separation process in which a homogeneous polymer solution is transformed into a two phase system, i.e., a solid polymer-rich phase which forms the membrane structure and a liquid polymer-poor phase which forms the membrane pores. . . . In this paper an attempt has been made to give a comprehensive theory of the membrane formation on the basis of thermodynamic kinetic relations of phase separation processes.

(emphasis added). Id. at page 241 (attached hereto as Appendix B).

From the above literature, it is apparent that those skilled in the art of membrane formation regard "phase separation" as having substantially the same meaning as the "phase inversion" limitation.

It should also be noted that the first full paragraph of page 7 of the present application describes a chamber which is covered and sealed after material is loaded in that chamber so that the material can be dispensed with a pressurized fluid or a pump. Applicant submits that this constitutes premetering material to be dispensed.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 6 2003



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